



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 152

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2006

No. 16

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2006, at 2 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2006

(Legislative day of Thursday, February 9, 2006)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, from the rising of the Sun to its setting, Your name is great among the nations.

We thank You for Your goodness and for Your wonderful works in our world. Thank You for satisfying our souls' longing for the transcendence.

We pray for our Senators and their staffs. Help them to stand humbly in Your presence, confident of Your power to guide them through our world's turbulence. Keep them from confusion and sin. Give them insights for solving the riddles of our planet and imbue them with compassion. Before they seek forgiveness, help them to forgive. Before they ask for mercy, help them to be merciful.

Give us all such inclusive spirits that we will be led from all bigotry and prejudice. Help each of us to abide in Your love, for You are our source of strength, comfort, and fortitude.

We pray this in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today, we will have a brief period of morning business before we resume consideration of S. 852, the asbestos bill. Although Members may come down and make statements relative to the bill, there are going to be no rollcall votes today, as I explained last night.

Last night, we vitiated cloture and confirmed a nomination that was scheduled for a vote today; and given that action, it is not necessary to have that vote this morning.

We did hope to consider and vote on amendments during today's session. However, at this time, there is a motion to waive the budget pending, and that will require further debate.

In addition, we are approaching the final week prior to the President's Day recess. We want to use all our time effectively to work through the asbestos bill and other remaining business. I talked with the Democratic leader about a number of issues that we will address over the course of the next 8 or 9 days. There is the tax reconciliation bill that has gone to conference. We have 10 hours on that. There are the

issues surrounding the PATRIOT Act that needs to be reauthorized.

Great progress has been made over the last 24 hours in a bipartisan way. At the close of business today, I will outline next week's schedule. Senators should plan on a very busy week prior to the recess, with voting over the course of next week.

ASBESTOS

I briefly want to comment on the asbestos bill and where we are today and the significance of this underlying bill. We have been on this for a week, in terms of debate. I think my colleagues and the American people realize how important this bill is and why it is the first major piece of legislation we are taking in this current session of Congress and have brought it to the floor.

I want to share briefly what my personal experience is with this disease, and it comes from having spent many months in Southampton, England, working as a surgeon a couple of decades ago. To me, those images apply today, of individuals, patients suffering from cancer from asbestos, asbestosis, and the clinical manifestations of the diseases related to it, such as mesothelioma. As we all know, based on the discussions that have taken place, this asbestos fiber is one that causes a reaction that can be a localized reaction in the lungs or a systemic reaction, and it is particularly prevalent in workers in shipyards; and, of course, Southampton was and has been one of the great shipyards in the world. Therefore, you see a lot of this mesothelioma.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S1047